

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The office action of September 7, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 6 and 8 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-5 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 9-15 have been added.

Preliminarily, applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 6-8 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to incorporate all the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form and are believed to be allowable. Objected to claim 7 has been canceled and replaced with new claim 9, which incorporates all the features of claim 7 and its ultimate base claim. Therefore claim 7 is allowable.

Claim 2 stands objected to based on several minor informalities. Claim 2 has been canceled herein rendering this objection moot.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,506,436 to Hayashi et al. ("Hayashi"). This rejection is deemed moot as claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 10-15 are fully supported by the specification and depend from claim 9. Therefore, claims 10-15 are considered allowable over the art of record for the same reasons as claim 9, and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

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Amendment dated November 15, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of September 7, 2004

All objections and rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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